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Severe weather causes landslides, flooding in Trinidad



PORT-OF-SPAIN -- A tropical wave that affected Trinidad and Tobago on Saturday has caused severe flooding and landslides throughout the country particularly along the North Western peninsula.

Two people died and another two are missing in Trinidad as the severe weather lashed the eastern Caribbean with heavy rains and wind, authorities said yesterday.

The victims died after heavy rainfall unleashed floods and mudslides in Trinidad's western suburb of Diego Martin, relatives said.

The tropical wave is forecast to move westward across the Lesser Antilles and the Caribbean Sea over the next couple of days.

Maximum sustained winds are near 35 mph with higher gusts mainly in squalls.

Aruba House pays homage to Aruban Olympian

Athlete John Henriquez, who just a few days ago defended the honor of Aruba in heavy weight lifting at the 2012 London Olympics, was received with high honors at Aruba House in the Hague. John was accompanied by his lovely wife Darlene and his coach Hugo Themen.

Minister Plenipotentiary Edwin Abath remarked "how proud we are for the magnificent way that John Henriquez



He was startled to see her appear in his room...that was a great surprise. John decided to spend a few days of vacation with family in Holland before returning to Aruba.

Minister Abath invited John to the Aruba House for a toast to celebrate his performance in London. Abath presented John with a portrait of his own performance on the opening night of the Olympic Games.

Continued on page 3

and the other athletes, coaches and other members of the Aruba delegation represented Aruba at the London Olympics." Abath expressed the desire to see more Aruba youth inspired by the presentation of the Aruba Olympic delegation. John chimed in and expressed the wish to see an even larger delegation to the upcoming 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

John reported that his experience in the Olympic villa was a unique and remarkable one, which he said is something he will cherish. From the very outset he felt that he had little chance for winning a medal, yet he looks back with great satisfaction on his presentation in London. He lifted 160 kilos, while in the "snatch" discipline he lifted 120 kilos.

He indicated that during the games he received a splendid surprise! On the 8th of August, the day of his 33rd birthday, his wife Darlene travelled to London unknown to him and surprised him with her visit.



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Paseo Herencia stages a rousing welcome for Chilean travel executives



Tourism Authority. Their purpose was to become familiar with various aspects of the island's tourism product, as Chile now has easier access to Aruba through direct flights, and there is great interest in the island in that market.

The delegates started their FAM-trip with an exciting evening of traditional island entertainment and a gourmet meal under the stars at Paseo Herencia shopping and entertainment center in Palm Beach. The mall's General



Chilean Travel Executives get into it

Over the past weekend, a delegation consisting of travel executives, VIP's and travel media from Chile was welcomed to Aruba by representatives of the Aruba



Living the Vida Loca

Manager, Valerie Pietersz-Camacho, personally greeted the delegation who were provided prime seating around the Plaza Padu to enjoy some impromptu dinner theater.

Kids in Action dance group provided the entertainment for a special show enjoyed not only by the Chilean group, but several families out and about enjoying the mall's amenities for a pleasant summer's evening before school starts again.

Chilean travel delegates were quite impressed with the elegant meal and delightful ambiance of the mall.

Continued on page 3

A great 20th Hospi Bondi Camp full of joy and fun



This year marked the 20th consecutive year that the Aruba Hospital organizes a special two-week camp for children of hospital employees. There are 240 children participating in these camps. The most important aspect of the camp is that during two weeks hospital employees can go to work without having to worry about their children. They turn them over to the able and responsible hands of the camp volunteers. The Hospi Bondi Camp is made possible by the help of the Hospital Board who annually support the program with a substantial amount of funds.

The children enjoy the very varied program, which includes, among others, a trip to the beach, cinema, bowling, Santa Rosa, Parke Arawa, Parke Curason at Jaburibari, a visit to Parliament, the Fire Brigade and the Aruba Aloe

Farm. There is also several in-house activities such as a game of football and "survival day" with a group of the St. Dominico Scouts.

On the closing day of the camp, the children presented a tremendous show accompanied with fireworks with every child participating along with their parents and friends. It was fun to the hilt for everyone!

Continued on page 4

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Aruba House pays homage...

Continued from page 1



The director of ATA Europe, Tirso Tromp, presented John Henriquez and his Coach Hugo Themen a special token with the Aruba logo. John, in turn, presented the Minister with the official Olympic pin and Hugo Themen gave Abath the official Aruba London Olympics shirt.

The celebration for John Henriquez at Aruba House was the highlight of the day for all staff and employees. They especially enjoyed John's quick 'lessons' in weight lifting to the Minister.



Paseo Herencia stages a rousing welcome ...

Continued from page 2



ATA Representatives

A "Taste of Aruban Carnival" production number brought them to their feet and before the audience to reveal a number of them had a natural talent for moving their hips, the island way. Obviously, they were not newcomers to the irresistible rhythms of carnival music.

Paseo Herencia is a popular night time diversion for islanders and visitors with a

diversity of shops, restaurants and free nightly entertainment. This special welcome was truly memorable for the delegates, allowing the Chilean guests and general public to interact and become acquainted. It was an authentic sample of Aruban hospitality.

by Rosalie Klein

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Renaissance Mall expands its offerings with a variety of new shops and outlets



Renaissance Mall is continuously improving its offerings and shoppers' experiences with an expanding selection of high-end stores and food outlet. In the past few months Renaissance Mall, located in the heart of Oranjestad, has

welcomed prestigious international brands such as Yves Rocher and Guess Kids.

Founded in 1959, Yves Rocher is an internationally recognized beauty and cosmetics brand that is available in over 88 countries on five continents.

Yves Rocher's main laboratories are located in La Gacilly, France, where the company focuses on 'Botanical Beauty', having identified and studied over 1100 botanical ingredients that form the active ingredients in its products. With its own branded store located in the Renaissance Mall, Yves Rocher's line of skincare, makeup, fragrance, body, hair and sun products is sure to create a whole new legion of fans on the island.

And, speaking of fashion, Guess Kids proves that you're never too young to be in style. The store is stocked with sensational styles for babies, toddlers and kids. Those who love the iconic Guess designs are sure to enjoy dressing up their little ones in the latest styles from the international fashion powerhouse.

Metro and Vicki Jones honored the Aruba Divi Village



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple, who are loyal visitors of Aruba, as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. This symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years. The honorees are Mr. Metro and Mrs. Vicki Jones from Philadelphia, PA. Metro and Vicki are loyal members of the Aruba Divi Village and they are very much in love with the Island. The certificate was presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority in presence of Mrs. Hilda Mills and Mr. Gerrit Griffith GM of the Divi Village.

Hospi Bondi Camp full of joy and fun

Continued from page 2

Nurse Stella Toppenberg is the coordinator of the camp who works tirelessly every year to make the event a success. Stella has the help of the Hospi Bondi commission comprised of: Nora Eckmeyer, Joan Dannies, Ludwina Boekhoudt and Benita Faro.

Dr. Jaime Falconi, Hospital General Director, attended the closing event and observed that the camp is something unique that we must continue

with dedication and perseverance for many years for the benefit of the children of our employees. Falconi expressed congratulations and his heartfelt thanks for the hard work that everyone put in to make this another successful Hospi Bondi Camp. He especially thanked the assistant leaders who year after year work tirelessly to make our children happy during the two weeks of the camp.

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La Bodega's Wine & Food Pairing with chef Vittorio



Chef Vittorio Muscariello

Master Chef Vittorio Muscariello was the featured celebrity chef at La Bodega Wine Store recent Wine & Food Pairing. The event which unfolds every last Friday of the month is organized by Romar Trading under the watchful eye of Wine Artist Clive Faustin.

Wine lovers congregated at the beautifully appointed bodega for a memorable experience with the owner of Hostaria da Vittorio, one of Aruba's most famous restaurants, enjoying the chef's wi-

zardry. Vittorio as you might recall, worked in some iconic Italian eateries before he opened his own elegant restaurant on Palm Beach, in March of 2000.

Famous for his authentic recipes and the use of fresh ingredients, Chef Vittorio paired some of his American-Italian signature dishes including ravioli pasta, an appetizer, a main course and dessert with a delightful collection of American wines, suggested by the wine artist.



The evening started with a sparkling flute of Korbel,

America's favorite bubbly, and was followed by St Jean Fume Blanc, with refreshing flavors of juicy fruit and floral notes. The Chateau St Jean Chardonnay, from Sonoma valley, in the style of the buttery American Chardonnay, was savored before the main course, escorted by Chateau St Jean Cabernet Sauvignon. The sold-out event also introduced Antigua Dessert Wine, a gold-medal winning Muscat de Frontignan, fortified with fine California brandy and aged an average of 11 years in French oak!

Clive Faustin who handles the Wine Portfolio and is an



Clive Faustin

Account Team Leader at Romar Trading reports that La Bodega wine shop on Gutenbergstraat 4, Oranjestad, sells vintages from Australia, Argentina, Chile, Italy, France, Spain, New Zealand, Portugal, the United States, and South Africa, all imported here by Romar Trading. Every last Friday of the month he hosts a special wine & food pairing, at the Bodega; also introducing Le Nez Du Vin, a discussion of different wine aromas, challenging audiences to recognize subtle differences.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israel tests SMS missile alerts as Iran chatter grows

JERUSALEM (AFP) -- Israel yesterday began testing an SMS system for warning the public of an imminent missile attack as chatter over a possible strike on Iran dominated the Israeli press headlines.

As testing began, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel had chalked up "a significant improvement" in its home front defence capabilities, mentioning its highly-vaunted anti-missile systems such as Iron Dome and Arrow 2.

With front page stories in two papers suggesting Tehran had made progress towards the manufacture and assembly of a nuclear warhead, Israel's Home Front Command began final tests of the SMS warning system which is expected to be operational by September.

"The Home Front Command will today start conducting nationwide testing of the 'Personal

Message' alert system, which will end on Thursday," said a statement indicating that SMS texts in Hebrew, Arabic, English and Russian would be sent to subscribers on Israel's three main networks: Cellcom, Pelephone and Orange.

The idea is that the SMS system could be used to warn the population of an imminent missile attack by Iran or Lebanon's Hezbollah militia if Israel strikes Tehran's nuclear facilities which it believes is a front for developing a bomb.

In recent days, talk of a possible strike on Iran has dominated the headlines, largely coming from unsourced officials quoting intelligence reports, none of which it was possible to verify.

"Iran has made progress toward nuclear warhead," was the headline in the Haaretz newspaper. "The Iranians great

test progress recently is in the manufacture and assembly of a nuclear warhead," the paper said, quoting the official who was drawing his information from an intelligence report which an Israeli newspaper said was recently presented to US President Barack Obama.

Although US officials declined to comment on the report, Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak referred to it directly last week, saying it "brings the American assessment much much closer to ours" and makes the Iranian issue "a bit more urgent."

US evangelist Billy Graham hospitalized for bronchitis

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Internationally-renowned evangelist Billy Graham was hospitalized for a lung infection thought to be bronchitis, the facility treating the American preacher said yesterday.

The 93-year-old was in stable condition, resting comfortably and receiving "appropriate antibiotics," said David Pucci, the pulmonologist on the case, in the statement from Ashville, North Carolina's Mission Hospital.

Graham was "alert and in good spirits" when he was admitted overnight yesterday, the hospital wrote, adding that no date has yet been set for his discharge but that he was "looking forward to returning home with his family."

Iran steps up relief efforts after quakes kill 227

VARZAQAN (AFP) - Iran yesterday stepped up relief operations in shattered villages in its northeast after saying rescue operations were completed following a double earthquake which cost 227 lives and injured 1,380 people.

"Search and rescue operations have ended and we are now working to ensure survivors' needs in terms of shelter and food," Interior Minister Moustafa Mohammad-Najjar told state television as he announced the casualty toll.

He and other officials said the rubble left by Saturday's earthquakes hid no more survivors, making further rescue activities unnecessary.

Around half of the 600 villages located in the disaster zone, an area northeast of the city of Tabriz, were damaged, some of them badly, he said. A dozen or more were completely razed.

The first of the earthquakes registered a strong 6.4 on the moment magnitude scale, according to the US Geological Survey which monitors seismic activity worldwide.

The second, almost as strong at 6.3 on the scale, rumbled through just 11 minutes after the first. Many smaller aftershocks followed.

While Tabriz and nearby towns escaped with only relatively minor damage, many outlying villages where buildings are made of more flimsy mud and concrete bricks were decimated.

The interior minister said

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had given orders for home reconstruction to begin immediately because of the harsh winter that the mountainous region experiences.

The region declared two days of mourning for the lives lost in the disaster.

An estimated 16,000 people remained homeless by the quakes or too afraid to return to cracked homes they feared unstable.

Iran's Red Crescent distributed thousands of tents and supplies of food and water to help them through the days ahead, and put up 4,000 emergency shelters in a sporting stadium.

It also said it turned down offers of help from Turkey, Taiwan, Singapore and Germany because Iran was able to cope with the disaster by itself.

The White House also stepped in to offer help and condolences to the people of Iran, with which Washington has no diplomatic relations and has been locked in a tense standoff for decades.

"The American people send the Iranian people our deepest condolences for the loss of life in the tragic earthquake in northeastern Iran," White House spokesman Jay Carney said in a statement.

"We stand ready to offer assistance in this difficult time," said the statement, which was addressed to the "Iranian people" and made no mention of the government of the Islamic republic.

French campsite attacker was convicted abuser

PRIVAS (AFP) - A paedophile who has admitted five serious sexual assaults on French campsites this summer had been convicted of a similar offence 12 years ago, France's Interior Ministry confirmed yesterday.

The 32-year-old man was arrested Friday in connection with an incident in the early hours of August 8 in which an 11-year-old was attacked as she slept alongside her 10-year-old sister in a tent on a campsite at Saint-Didier-sous-Aubenas in the Ardeche region of central France.

He subsequently confessed to four other recent attacks on girls holidaying on campsites in an area popular with nature-lovers from all over Europe.

Three of the victims were French, one Dutch and one German.

The prosecutor in charge of

the case confirmed that DNA evidence had helped police track the man to his home in the tiny village of Brune in the southern Ardeche.

He had been placed on a national DNA database in 2000 after receiving a one-year suspended sentence for sexual assault.

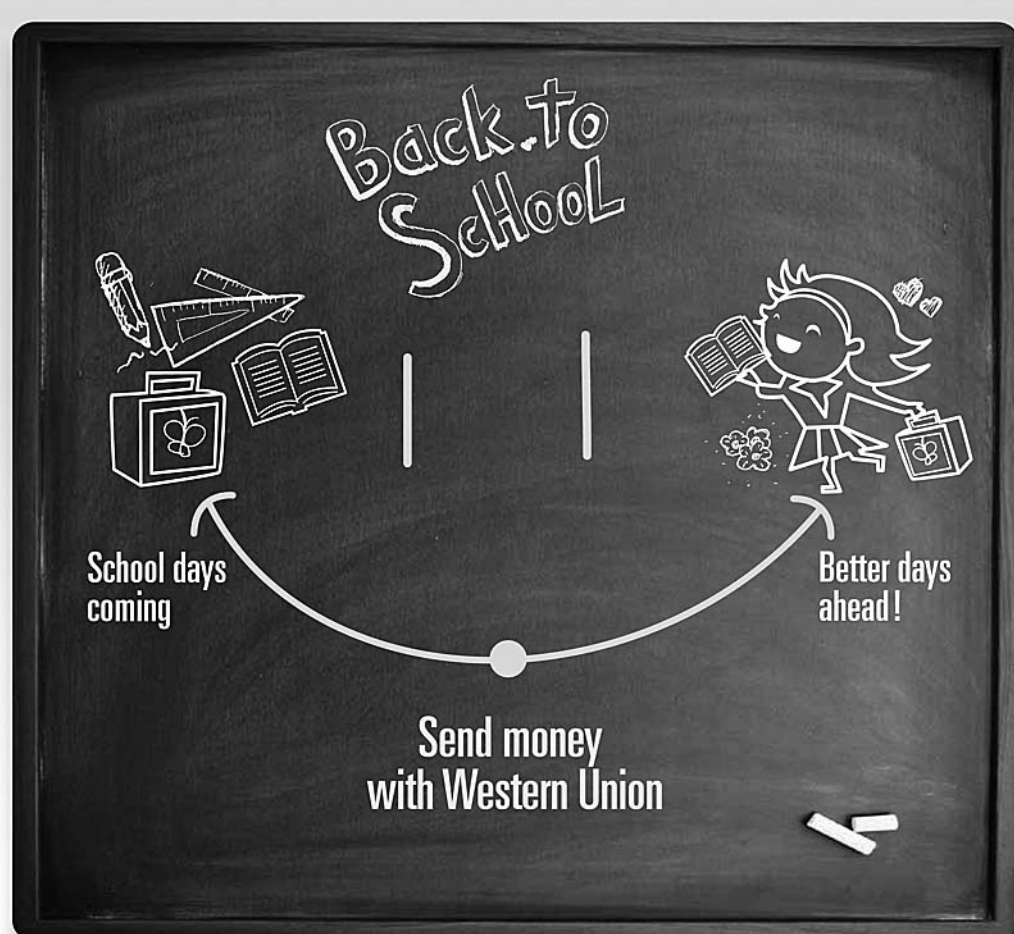
According to neighbours, local police were informed 18 months ago that the man, a divorced tiler who lived alone, had been downloading pornographic images of children.

Officers at the nearest police station, in nearby Pouzin, declined to comment when asked to clarify what exactly they had been told at the time.

Police are also expected to face questions as to whether they should have been quicker to alert tourists to the potential threat.



As fighting continues in Syria, yesterday's meeting of Arab League ministers to discuss the crisis and select a replacement for United Nations-Arab League envoy Kofi Anan has been postponed. Deputy Arab League chief Ahmed Ben Hellil said the meeting was delayed because of the minor operation undergone by Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal.



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Democrats bash new VP pick as right-wing ideologue

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Democratic strategist David Axelrod attacked Republican Mitt Romney's choice of a vice presidential running mate as an ideologue who would demolish government health insurance for the elderly.

Paul Ryan, Romney's pick, is "the architect of a plan to end Medicare as we know it," Axelrod, a top advisor to President Barack Obama's presidential campaign, said on ABC's "This Week."

Ryan's proposal to turn the public insurance plan into a voucher system will "shift thousands of dollars of costs onto senior citizens," Axelrod said.

Moreover, Ryan's plan to privatize the national pension program known as Social Security "was so out there that even George Bush called it irresponsible," he added.

Axelrod's comments came as Democrats mounted a fierce



Paul Ryan

counter-attack a day after Romney picked as his running-mate a congressman who, known as a leading advocate for deep cuts in US spending, is to deal with what Republicans say are unsustainable US deficits.

The choice was seen by many as a bold, but risky move that will re-focuses the US presidential campaign on debt and deficit issues amid a sluggish US economic recovery.

"I think it will be a booster shot within his own party," Ax-

elrod acknowledged. "I think the Tea Party is excited. I think the social conservatives are excited."

Ryan's budget proposal "cuts back on college aid to kids, and research, and innovation and all the things that we need to grow the economy. And on things that people rely on, nursing home care for seniors, and for the disabled and so on," Axelrod told NBC's "Meet the Press."

President Obama has portrayed Romney as a wealthy venture capitalist who would shower the rich with tax cuts, and saddle the middle class with the bill, in the form of higher taxes and cuts to key social programs.

Conservatives cheered Ryan's name on the ticket as a jolt to the Republican base ensuring the election will be framed around major issues like the role and size of government.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Olympic hero Farah meets British PM for hunger talks

LONDON (AFP) - Britain's double Olympic gold hero Mo Farah yesterday helped launch a "hunger summit" aimed at tackling malnutrition worldwide, at Prime Minister David Cameron's Downing Street residence.

Fresh from winning the 5,000 meter final on Saturday, Farah joined Cameron, Brazilian football legend Pele, famed Ethiopian distance runner Haile Gebrselassie and Vice President Michel Temer of Brazil, who co-hosted the event.

Taking advantage of the large number of foreign officials gathered in London for the Olympic Games, Cameron led the calls for the international community to help the 25 million children around the world suffering from stunted growth.

Farah, 29, who was born in Somalia but moved to Britain aged eight, shook hands with the British premier outside number ten before performing his distinctive "Mobot" celebration.

The athlete and his wife Tania set up the Mo Farah Foundation which aims to build 50 wells and to give a

month's supply of food to at least 20,000 people, and medical support to 40,000, by the end of the year.

He has also set aside the 250,000 pounds (\$389,000) he won in a TV show earlier this year for the project -- and there is more to come.

"On the first of September I'm having a big charity auction for the Mo Farah Foundation," he said on Saturday.

Olympians including Ethiopian 10,000 meters gold medallist Tirunesh Dibaba and British long jump winner Greg Rutherford have signed an open letter urging Cameron to "fire the starting gun on the biggest ever push against hunger and malnutrition".

Cameron was set to pledge £120 million (\$188 million, 153 million euros) for research into drought-resistant and vitamin-enhanced crops for Africa and South Asia.

The conference was held ahead of the closing ceremony for the London Olympics yesterday, when the Olympic flame was extinguished in the British capital and organisers handing it over to the Rio 2016 team.

Castro celebrates 86th birthday out of limelight

HAVANA (AFP) - Fidel Castro, who led Cuba for a half century and became known worldwide for decades of Cold War-era clashing with the United States, will celebrate his 86th birthday today far from the limelight.

Officially, there are no plans to publicly honor the communist country's one-time "commander-in-chief," who tightly orchestrated public life there from January 1959 until he suffered a health crisis in 2006 and delegated his duties to his brother Raul Castro.

US Muslim group decries shots on Chicago mosque

CHICAGO (AFP) - Two air rifle shots struck the outer wall of a mosque and Muslim education center outside Chicago overnight, the Council on American-Islamic Relations said yesterday.

The shots were heard by worshippers who were outside the mosque and were powerful enough to damage the building's brick wall, it added.

The shots were allegedly fired by a neighbor with a history of opposition to the mosque, said the Chicago chapter of CAIR, the United States' largest Muslim civil

rights and advocacy group.

Morton Grove police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the US attorney's office are investigating the incident.

"This is obviously an alarming situation that all parties are taking very seriously," CAIR-Chicago Executive Director Ahmed Rehab said in a statement.

"The weapon allegedly used in this incident is powerful enough to kill, and the projectiles reportedly came within inches of the head of the security guard on duty."



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Health & Living

Lebanese protest against anal exams on suspected gays

BEIRUT (AFP) - Dozens of people demonstrated outside the law courts in the Lebanese capital to protest the use of anal "tests" on men suspected of homosexuality, which is a criminal offence in the Arab country.

The rally followed a July 28 police raid on a gay venue in a working class district of Beirut when 36 men were taken into custody and forced to undergo the examinations, reportedly to determine their sexual orientation.

Lebanon-based HELEM, considered the Arab world's

leading lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights group, called for the rally under the slogan: "Stand up against the tests of shame, vaginal or anal."

It also voiced solidarity with women subjected to so-called "virginity tests."

Men and women -- ranging from gay and lesbian young adults to a father and daughter -- chanted in unison and held banners that read: "United to abolish the tests of shame."

Other homemade signs struck a more sarcastic tone: "Honorable minister, before

you test my anus, at least take me out to dinner," read one.

But for most, the tests were no laughing matter.

One sign read: "The cost of forensic rape: 125,000 Lebanese lira" (about \$85), pointing out that the men subjected to the anal probes were being charged for the procedure.

Under Article 534 of the Lebanese Penal Code, sexual relations "contradicting the laws of nature" are illegal and violators may be punished by up to one year in prison.

Taiwan same-sex union points to Asia shift on gay rights

TAIPEI (AFP) - A Buddhist cleric's decision to wed two women in Taiwan is the latest sign that obstacles to same-sex unions are quietly coming down in Asia, with religion posing less of a hindrance than in the West.

Fish Huang and her partner You Ya-ting, both 30, received their blessings from Shih Chao-hui, a female Buddhist master, at a monastery in north Taiwan's Taoyuan county over the weekend -- and no one

seemed to raise an eyebrow.

Communist Vietnam is considering making the practice legal and in Nepal hundreds marched in support of enshrining it in the new constitution. Tokyo Disneyland has allowed gay couples to informally tie the knot on its grounds.

Myanmar and Laos also recently held their first gay pride events.

According to Shih, the cleric who presided over the ceremony in Taiwan, this is a

trend facilitated regionwide by a lack of religious and philosophical dogma against homosexuality.

Buddhism does not dismiss homosexuality from an ideological point of view, and in Confucianism it's a grey area, so eastern societies tend to be more open-minded towards homosexuality," she said.

Even so, the move towards greater tolerance does not apply universally to Asia, as countries where Islam is the dominant religion maintain tough laws against homosexuals.

In Malaysia, for example, they can be sentenced to up to 20 years in jail, while in Indonesia they could risk caning of up to 100 lashes under a draft Islamic bylaw in Aceh province.

And even in Asia's most culturally liberal societies, homosexuals are unlikely to see full equality before the law anytime soon.

While the Old Testament apparently condemns homosexuality, there are no similar passages in the Buddhist classics.



(AFP) - An Indonesian man has died of bird flu, the health ministry said, in the country's ninth fatal case this year. The man (37) was hospitalised on July 24 with a high fever and was placed on a ventilator five days later, according to the report. He died on July 30. Authorities do not know how the man contracted the virus, but said he lived near poultry farms. Bird flu, also known as the H5N1 virus, typically spreads from birds to humans through direct contact, but experts fear it could mutate into a form that is easily transmissible between humans.



Sure, you now that papaya is a fruit; you rightfully assume it's good for you, but know that the benefits of eating papaya go far beyond the generic boost of vitamin C. So, Why eat papaya?: Papaya Contains Antioxidants- Papaya is Used to Treat Digestive Disorders- Papaya Boosts Male Virility- Papaya Prevents Heart Attacks and Strokes- Papaya Treats Inflammation. There are a lot of anti-oxidants in the papaya. Scientists have found that papayas contain more betacarotene than carrots, and more vitamin C than kiwi fruit. Papaya also are abundant in bioflavonoids. Substantial minerals found in papaya include potassium, magnesium, and calcium.

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Sci-Tech

Fires on Spain's Canary Islands force 4,700 evacuations



LA GOMERA (AFP) - Wildfires raging on the Spanish Canary Islands of La Gomera and Tenerife have forced the evacuation of more than 4,700 people in two days, the regional government said week-end.

Firefighters battling the blazes on the islands off Morocco were up against "high temperatures, low humidity and wind" that fanned the flames, said regional economy minister Javier Gonzalez Ortiz.

A pitiless heatwave originating from north Africa that follows Spain's driest winter in seven decades has shown no sign of letting up, and fires

were also raging in the mainland Galicia region.

On La Gomera, the most devastating fires in a decade have ravaged some 3,000 hectares (7,400 acres) of land, including about one-tenth of the Garajonay nature reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

About 2,500 people from 13 villages in the island's west and southwest were evacuated as a precaution, the regional government said in a statement.

On the other Canaries island of Tenerife, more than 2,200 people were moved from their homes.

"The fires are still burning on three fronts," an emergency services spokesman said earlier. "There is no positive change for the moment."

Water-dropping aircraft again flew missions as blazes erupted anew in the Garajonay reserve, home to rare subtropical forests which boasts 450 plant species, including eight found only in the park.

Ventura del Carmen Rodriguez, the island's environment secretary, said last week it would take 30-40 years for Garajonay's burned areas to recover.

Three more villages were evacuated after 300 people fled their homes to safety on Friday, as roads leading to the affected areas were cut off.

Meanwhile on the Spanish mainland, in Galicia, two villages in Ourense province were evacuated Friday as flames devoured another 800 hectares of vegetation, the regional government said.

Fires also raged in the Catalonia and Andalusia regions.

13 die as lightning strikes Bangladesh mosque

DHAKA (AFP) - At least 13 Muslim worshippers were killed and 15 hurt when lightning struck a mosque in a remote village in northeast Bangladesh as they held special Ramadan prayers, police said on yesterday.

The imam was among those instantly killed when a lightning bolt hit the tin-and-thatch building at Saraswatipur village, about 200 kilometres (125 miles) from the capital Dhaka, late on Friday.

The lightning appeared to "electrify" the mosque after hitting a rooftop microphone being run on power from a car battery, local council member Abul Kalam told AFP by telephone.

About 35 people from the village in the lake district of Sunamganj were holding prayers known as taraweeh -- offered during the holy fasting month of Ramadan -- at the time, police chief Bayes Alam said.

US drone to map ancient Peru ruins

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Archeologists in Peru plan to use a US-made drone to survey ancient Andean ruins, in the latest civilian application of the unmanned aerial vehicles used to hunt militants in the world's war zones.

The device, which can fit in a backpack, is due to be tested later this month at the ruins of the 16th-century Spanish colonial town Mawchu Llacta, some 13,450 feet (4,100 meters) above sea level. The Skate Small Unmanned Aerial System will take only about 10

minutes to map the massive site the size of 25 football fields.

The researchers, who want to test Skate in different environments, developed software to collect and process data rapidly, with the aim of providing a low-cost solution to archeologists that is easy to use.

Drones have mostly been used for military operations but could also have other uses, such as tracking the advance of global warming and helping first responders provide relief at a disaster site.

COMICS



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ACROSS

1. Self-appointed Dwarf leader
4. Male deer
8. Halfhearted attempt
12. Bother
13. "America, America" director
14. He scored over 1,300 goals
15. Cargo weight
16. Oscar winner
17. ___ is as good as a wink
18. Glass or class intro
19. "___ and Moonbeams"
21. Remainder

DOWN

23. It's past "due"
24. Viva voce
26. Obfuscation
27. Coach
30. Price tag specks
34. Salamander
35. Dr. J's first pro org.
36. 19th-century financier
37. "___ a Gift"
38. Remove fat
40. Disney's Pongo, e.g.
44. Sister of Jo, Beth, and Meg
47. On the Sargasso
48. ___ spumante
49. "Never ___"

LATE

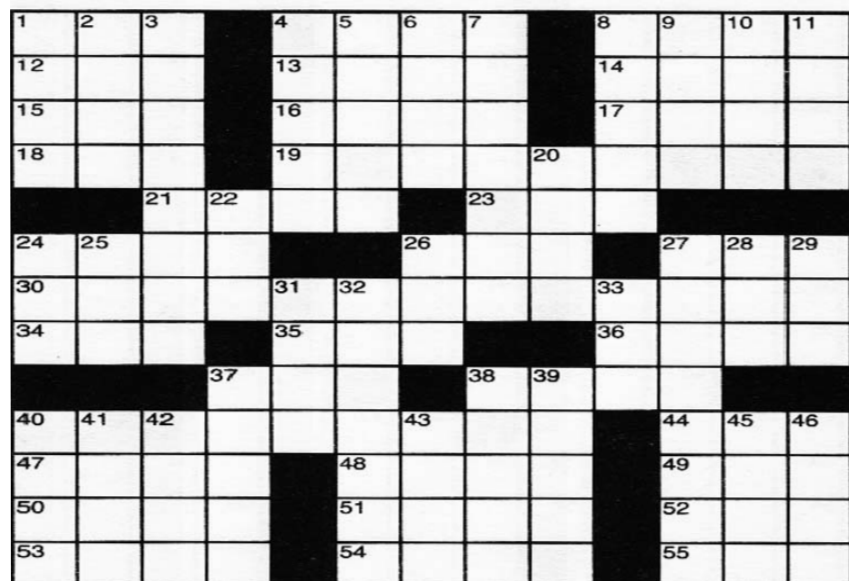
50. Hat-tossing locale
51. "___ a Song Go Out of My Heart"
52. Large deer
53. Actress Hudson
54. Actor Beatty et al.
55. "Fiddle-de-___!"

DOWN

1. Information
2. Incense
3. Binding agreement
4. Rattletraps
5. Parcel out
6. Iranian coin
7. Skimpily summer wear

HITS THE SPOT

8. Garden shed implement
9. "...a ___ clock scholar"
10. Loads
11. Oyster areas
20. Mythological ship
22. Jodie Foster, for one
24. Keats specialty
25. Ump's colleague
26. Lake Okeechobee's st.
27. Quite lively
28. Football positions: abbr.
29. Interrogate
31. Hari of spydom
32. Forbear
33. "___ Loved You"
37. Counterpart
38. Filled to the gills
39. Emulates Mme. Defarge
40. Brunette description
41. Far East's locale
42. Fasting season
43. "___ of Fury" (Bogart film)
45. "Wind in the Willows" character
46. Symbol of servitude



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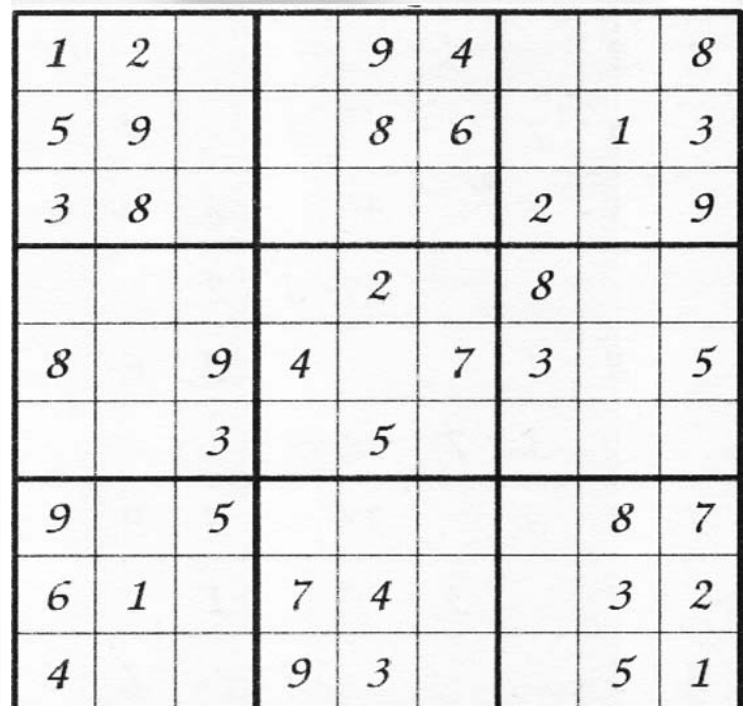
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SOLUTION

1	5	9	8	6	2	7	4	3
2	8	6	5	4	1	3	9	7
3	7	1	6	5	8	2	9	4
4	2	3	7	1	9	5	6	8
5	4	8	2	9	1	3	5	6
6	3	7	1	2	5	9	8	4
7	9	5	4	8	7	3	1	2
8	6	1	7	4	2	9	3	5
9	4	2	9	3	6	5	1	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Brazil's auto demand, incentives lure foreign investment

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Rising demand and government incentives are prompting foreign carmakers to boost their investment in Brazil, which analysts say could become the third largest auto market in the world as early as 2015.

Industry group ANFAVEA forecast that domestic sales of cars and light commercial vehicles may grow by four to five percent this year compared to 2011, with up to 3.81 million vehicles. Production is slated to reach 3.49 million units, up about two percent from last year, the National Association of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers added.

On Thursday, Japanese giant Toyota inaugurated its third plant in Brazil, in the southeastern town of Sorocaba, with the goal of producing 70,000 new Etios compact models a year.

A modified version of a model already being sold in India and South Africa, the Etios will be available from September, priced at an average of \$17,300 to compete with similar models from Volkswagen, Fiat, General Motors and Hyundai.

Toyota, in Brazil since 1958, said it also planned to begin selling the Prius, its popular hybrid electric car, in Brazil later this year and to invest \$495 million to build an engine plant near Sorocaba.

With a share of less than three percent of the Brazilian auto market last year, the Japanese carmaker lags behind leading players Fiat, Volkswagen and General Motors.

But the world's biggest carmaker plans to double its sales in Brazil to around 200,000 vehicles in the next two years and become one of market leaders in the next decade.

"The Brazilian economy is going to post solid growth in the second half of the year. Interest rates (now down to a record low of 8 percent) will continue to decline, and credit will continue to expand," ANFAVEA president Cledorvino Belini said today.

Home to 191 million people, Brazil currently ranks as the world's fourth largest car market behind the United States, China and Japan.

The industry, which currently employs 147,000 people, contributes roughly 5 percent of Brazil's GDP.

But rising demand for better quality cars by the country's expanding middle class -- now estimated at 95 million people -- a low motorization rate (333 cars per 1,000 inhabitants), the absence of domestic producers and government incentives offer good prospects for foreign makers, analysts say.

Roland Berger Strategy Consultants estimates that Brazil, the world's sixth largest economy, could displace Japan as the world's third biggest market by 2015 and sales rise to 6.6 million vehicles by 2020.

In April, the government introduced new rules to make the auto industry more competitive. The rules require carmakers to increase regional content by purchasing more locally-produced spare parts, invest in engineering and innovation, and improve car fuel efficiency, or face higher taxes.

Sao Paulo state, where nearly half of the national auto industry is concentrated, also provides tax breaks to attract foreign makers.

Daily Exchange Rates

Current as 08/12/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.81
Britain	GBP	2.71	2.76	2.82
Switzerland	CHF	181.65	182.37	183.17
Netherlands	EUR	216.42	218.39	220.59
Sweden	SEK	25.62	26.34	27.14
Denmark	DKK	28.37	29.09	29.89
Norway	NOK	29.07	29.79	30.59
Japan	JPY	225.15	227.21	229.49

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FINANCE

Iraq oil production tops Iran

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Iraq's oil output now stands at 3.2 million barrels per day, outpacing neighbouring Iran to become the second-biggest producer in OPEC, Iraq's top energy official said yesterday.

"Oil production is now at 3.2 (million bpd), higher than other countries like Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait," Hussein al-Shahrastani, deputy prime minister responsible for energy affairs, told journalists.

Iraq has sought to dramatically increase its oil output and exports, the latter of which account for the vast majority of government income, while world powers have imposed ever-tightening economic sanctions on Iran's oil export sector.

Oil cartel OPEC's August market report, citing secondary sources, put Iraqi production at 3.079 million bpd in

July, compared to 2.817 million bpd for Iran.

The former represents a 400,000 bpd increase since the end of 2011, while the latter marks a 700,000 bpd decline.

The gap is likely to widen further as Iraq looks to ramp up production in coming years, and as several contracts with foreign energy firms to extract crude begin resulting in increased output.

Oil Minister Abdelkarim al-Luaybi has said Baghdad plans to increase production and exports this year to 3.4 million bpd and 2.6 million bpd respectively.

Iraq has proven reserves of 143.1 billion barrels of oil and 3.2 trillion cubic metres (111.9 trillion cubic feet) of gas, both of which are among the highest such deposits in the world.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer



Papenburg: Spectators watch the undocking of the new cruise liner "Celebrity Reflection" from the Meyer-Werft shipyard on August 12, 2012 in Papenburg, northern Germany. The ship, built for the Celebrity Cruises cruise company, has a length of 315 meters and offers space for 3,046 passengers. (AFP PHOTO)

Cas Animal grateful for sponsorship from Digicel



Remko van der Veldt and Kirsten Arndt

Kirsten Arndt, founder of Cas Animal, which rescues abandoned dogs and cats off the streets, expresses her heartfelt gratitude to Digicel Telecommunications for their kind sponsorship by providing Internet access for the foundation. Interested parties can now contact the foundation through their Facebook page. She also warns island residents that a distemper epidemic among island dogs is still raging. Dogs should not be

allowed to wander the streets, but kept in the yard and vaccinations should be up to date.

If you see a dog on the street you suspect has distemper, call Kiki at 742-8732 and she will take it to the vet and attempt to save it, if possible. This has been her mission in life since coming to Aruba 15 years ago, rescuing the stray, abandoned and abused dogs of the island. She cares for nearly 100 dogs and puppies in her home, which she has converted into a no-kill shelter, while struggling to raise the funds for a proper facility on land she has already been awarded by the government.

Kiki also works with a number of resorts to capture the cats that come to their premises and have them neutered. She will always try to find a good home for a stray animal, but cats often do well on their own, keeping the hotel grounds free of unwanted vermin. In these circumstances, often neutering is best, then returning the cat to its comfort zone to do its job.

Her costs for feeding all the dogs she rescued and main-

tains in her shelter are astronomical, as well as her veterinary bills. If anyone wishes to help, they can support her cause by donations in the form of payment to the Cas Animal Foundation account at the Contreras Veterinary Clinics in Shaba or Savaneta, or to Animal Care Clinic in Paradera, phone number 582-8382, as well as making donations directly to the foundation's account: Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110. If you are not an island resident and wish to adopt a dog, Kiki has many that could use a good home and will assist you in the process, as it is much easier to return to the U.S. with an Aruban dog than you might think. They require examination and certification by a qualified vet to pass quarantine standards prior to departure; Kiki will also help in obtaining a dog transport and getting them to the airport, if needed.

Coming up on September 29 will be the annual fundraising gold tournament at Tierra Del Sol Country Club and Golf Course. Those wishing to participate to benefit a worthy cause can contact the TDS Golf Pro Adam Williamson at e-mail: teetime@tierradelsol.com.

Did you hear? Protestants told to stop gossiping



OTTAWA (AFP) - Canada's largest Protestant denomination is urging congregants to stop gossiping, likening the chatter to gambling and "other evils of society."

"Gossip can cause people to lose their jobs and their good reputations," according to a motion under consideration at

the United Church of Canada's 41st general council, held August 11-18 in Ottawa.

Idle talk can "lead to broken friendships and split families, and can be used as a malicious weapon against an opponent," the resolution continued, adding that mean-spirited gabbing "can cause people to switch churches or in some instances, to stop attending church altogether."

The motion aims to "encourage congregations to seek ways to raise awareness of the harmful aspects of gossip."

While not explicitly a sin, United Church spokesman

Reverend Bruce Gregersen explained that spreading tales is contrary to Christian teachings promoting love, truth and honesty.

It falls into the category of "bearing false witness," he told AFP.

Anthropologists, however, see chatter as a way of sharing key information about others that affects people's social standing.

Reputation is determined by gossip, and casual conversations of others affect one's acceptability as a mate or a partner in a social exchange, said Jerome Barkow, an anthropology professor at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

The conference, held once every three years, brings together 350 delegates and a couple hundred more guests and observers, representing 650,000 church members nationwide.

"An increasing number of people are spiritual, believe in God and prayer, but fewer and fewer people believe in the need to link that to an institution," Gregersen said.



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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and

drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious,

connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge



offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet

services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Excellent dining, charming ambiance and a breathtaking view found only at La Trattoria El Faro Blanco



Stunning sunset



Over twenty years ago, a very clever person had the idea of placing a cozy little restaurant on the top of the cliff adjacent to the California Lighthouse, offering the most stunning view of Aruba imaginable.

La Trattoria el Faro Blanco took over the location some years ago, and the restaurant's quaint trappings, superb selection and amenable staff has made it a one of the island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view,



Osso Buco with Risotto

recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view (or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba. Reservations can be made by calling 586-0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, www.aruba-latrattoria.com, where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.



Summer Olympics: July 27 - August 12



Mexico stun Brazil to win gold



LONDON (AFP) - Britain's Anthony Joshua won the men's Olympic super heavyweight (+91kgs) gold on count-back against defending champion Roberto Cammarelle of Italy after their bout finished 18-all on Sunday. Italy immediately appealed the decision after Joshua overturned a three-point deficit heading into the final round to clinch the narrowest of victories. Joshua, 22, only took up boxing four years ago, but the 2011 world silver medallist from Baku, Azerbaijan, added Olympic gold to his collection with victory in the final bout of the London Games. Watford-born Joshua earned Britain's third boxing gold and their fifth medal in London following on from flyweight Nicola Adams and bantamweight Luke Campbell victories in their gold-medal bouts. As welterweight Freddie Evans took silver and Anthony Ogogo finished with a bronze in the middleweight, Britain have had their best return in the Olympic ring since the 1908 London Games when they won 14 of the 15 boxing medals.



LONDON--Ryota Murata won Japan's first Olympic boxing gold in nearly half a century Saturday, beating Brazil's Esquiva Falcao Florentino in the final of the men's middleweight contest. The nation's last boxing gold was won by Takao Sakurai in the bantamweight class at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. A runner-up at the 2011 World Championships, Murata came from behind to beat Uzbekistan's Abbas Atoev in the semifinal on the previous day. The match against Florentino, who finished third in last year's World Championships, was very close--Murata won by 14-13.



LONDON (AFP) - Mexico stunned Brazil to win their first gold in the Olympic men's football tournament as Orie Peralta's double clinched a shock 2-1 victory over the five-time world champions Saturday.

While Brazil have graced

the World Cup with some of the best players and most dazzling performances ever seen on football's grandest stage, the Selecao have never managed to replicate those golden moments at the Games and this was another miserable chapter in their Olympic history.

Brazil, bronze medallists in Beijing in 2008, lost in the Olympic final in 1984 and 1988 and their failure to win gold has rankled with such a proud football nation for decades.

Mano Menezes's team are unlikely to get a sympathetic reception on their return home after such a lacklustre display riddled with nerves and defensive blunders.

Mexico had won three of their past five matches against Brazil, including a 2-0 friendly victory in June, and there was no sign of an inferiority complex as Tena's side made an astonishing start.

Mexico manager Luis Fernando Tena added: "We are extremely happy. It's a wonderful moment for our country. Mexico will be on the streets partying right now.

Brazil women stun US for volleyball gold



LONDON (AFP) - Brazil rallied to beat the world number one-ranked United States 3-1 Saturday and win the London Olympics women's volleyball gold medal.

In a rematch of the Beijing Olympic final, Brazil shrugged off their shaky start and again proved too strong for the Americans, winning by scores of 11-25, 25-17, 25-20, 25-17.

The Americans had looked poised to turn the tables this time, reaching the final without losing a match. Indeed the Americans had not lost a match in 2012.

Brazil, meanwhile, struggled in the group stage, losing twice in their pool but scraping into the quarter-finals in fourth place.

Once into the knock-out

phase they delivered two dominant performances with Sheilla Castro, Thaisa Menezes and Fabiana

Claudino rounding into form.

On Saturday, the US started strongly and capitalized on a plethora of Brazil's errors. But the Brazilians regrouped for the second set and after going ahead with a narrow third-set win were full of confidence.

Earlier Saturday, Japan claimed bronze with a 3-0 victory over South Korea (25-22, 26-24, 25-21).

Meanwhile World Cup holders Russia came from two sets down to beat world champions Brazil in a thrilling Olympic men's volleyball final yesterday.

While Italy beat Bulgaria by three sets to one to claim the bronze medal.



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Perfect US NBA stars beat Spain to take gold

LONDON (AFP) - The United States Dream Team of NBA stars captured their second successive Olympic men's basketball gold medal and the 14th overall for America by beating Spain 107-100 in Sunday's final.

Running unbeaten through the tournament as they did in 2008 when they also beat Spain in the final, the US multi-millionaire lineup of NBA elite claimed their fifth crown in the past six Olympics.

"I'm on cloud nine. It's such a huge honour," US star Kobe Bryant said after his final Olympic bow.



The Americans improved to 62-1 since revamping the national team program after settling for Olympic bronze in 2004.

But reigning European champion Spain, routed by the US NBA stars in a pre-Olympic exhibition game last month in Barcelona, stayed with the defending champions to the very end, keeping within reach until the final minutes.

Kevin Durant led the US stars with 30 points while

James had 19 and Bryant added 17.

Pau Gasol, Bryant's NBA Los Angeles Lakers' teammate, led Spain with 24 points while Juan-Carlos Navarro added 21 and Rudy Fernandez contributed 14.

Spain's only Olympic medals in the event have come with finals losses to US teams in 1984, 2008 and in London.

Russia won Argentina 81-77 for the Olympic bronze.

Top 20 - Medals at the end of the 2012 Olympic Games :

1- U.S.A. 46 29 29 104	11- Japan 7 14 17 38
2- China 38 27 22 87	12- Kazakhstan 7 1 5 13
3- Great Britain 29 17 19 65	13- Netherlands 6 6 8 20
4- Russia 24 25 33 82	14- Ukraine 6 5 9 20
5- South Korea 13 8 7 28	15- Cuba 5 3 6 14
6- Germany 11 19 14 44	16- New Zealand 5 3 5 13
7- France 11 11 12 34	17- Iran 4 5 3 12
8- Italy 8 9 11 28	18- Jamaica 4 4 4 12
9- Hungary 8 4 5 17	19- Czech Republic 4 3 3 10
10- Australia 7 16 12 35	20- North Korea 4 0 2 6

Relentless Russia win fourth rhythmic gold



LONDON (AFP) - Before a sea of red, white and blue flags, Russia pursued their merciless dominance of rhythmic gymnastics by claiming their fourth consecutive Olympic group title on Sunday.

The Russian team posted a score of 57.000 points to finish above Belarus and three-time world champions Italy at London's Wembley Arena, to the delight of the many Russian supporters present.

With Evgeniya Kanaeva having successfully defended her title in Saturday's individual final, Russia have now won every Olympic gold medal in the sport since the start of the 2000 Games in Sydney.

Italy secured the world crown in 2009, 2010 and 2011 and were bidding to claim a first Olympic gold medal, but they had to content themselves with bronze, eight years on from a second-place finish in Athens.

In the final, the five-strong teams perform only two meticulously choreographed routines -- one with balls, and one with hoops and ribbons.

Belarus slipped in front of Italy with their routine, leaving some of the Italian gym-

nasts in tears but giving the Belarusians their third medal in the event after silver in Sydney and bronze in Beijing four years ago.

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